enhanced amount of Rs. 180 crore has been allocated for 2005-06 for expenditure under various Plan Schemes of the Ministry.

Clinical trial on AIDS vaccine

2111. SHRIMATI PREMA CARIAPPA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Pune based National AIDS Research Institute has embarked upon the India's first ever clinical trial on humans for an AIDS vaccine;

(b) whether it is also a fact that the TRC is awaiting official communication from the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee to launch the trials; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) Yes, Sir. Trial of AIDS vaccine has been launched on 7th February, 2005 at National AIDS Research Institute (NARI), Pune on human volunteers.

The Adeno Associated Viral vaccine (AAV) is a candidate vaccine, which is under going Phase-I trial.

(b) and (c) Yes, Sir. TRC, Chennai has already received clearance for carrying out Phase I clinical trial MVA based HIV vaccine candidate from the Genetic Engineering Approval Committee by the end of June, 2005.

National Commission on Macro Economics and Health

2112. SHRI R.P. GOENKA: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the National Commission on Macro Economics and Health, set up to assess the means to ensure that the poor get free treatment, has submitted its report recently; and

(b) if so, the details of the major recommendations made by the commission and the action taken/proposed to be taken thereon?

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THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) National Commission on Macro Economics and Health has submitted its draft report for the consideration of Co-Chairpersons of the Commission, namely Union Finance Minister and Union Health and Family Welfare Minister. The report is still to be finalized.

Registration of private hospitals and diagnostic centres

2113. SHRI JANARDHANA POOJARY: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have asked the private hospitals and diagnostic centres in the country to register with the designated authorities with a view to ensuring uniformity in healthcare services; and

(b) if so, the details in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) and (b) Health being a State subject under the Constitution of India, it is for the State Governments to make regulations for the registration of the private hospitals and diagnostic centres located in their jurisdiction.

Central Drug Authority

2114. SHRI UDAY PRATAP SINGH: Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the proposal to set up an independent Central Drug Authority has again been mooted;

(b) if so, what will be the terms of references of the Authority; and

(c) who will head the said Authority, a technocrat or bureaucrat?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE (SHRIMATI PANABAKA LAKSHMI): (a) to (c) A Committee was set up under the Chairmanship of Dr. R.A. Mashelkar, Secretary and DG, CSIR, New Delhi for a comprehensive examination of drugs regulatory issues. The Committee has recommended the